

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LAGOS 02579 01 OF 02 020852Z
ACTION SS-15

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 SY-05 USSS-00
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O P 011745Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6825
INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 LAGOS 2579

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OVIP (CARTER, JIMMY)
SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TRIP: SCHEDULE

REF: (A) LAGOS 2574, (B) STATE 50946

1. WE HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED SCHEDULE
(REFTEL A) WHICH THE MEA'S PLANNING COMMITTEE PRESENTED TO US
THIS MORNING.

2. DEDICATION OF NEW EMBASSY. FOR THE REASONS CITED IN PARA
9 OF LAGOS 2409, WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT THIS EVENT
SHOULD BE INCLUDED. IT NEED NOT TAKE MUCH TIME, HOWEVER.
WE HAVE IN MIND A SCENARIO OF ABOUT 20 MINUTES IN WHICH THE
PRESIDENT COULD SPEAK FOR FIVE MINUTES, CUT A RIBBON AND THEN
SHAKE HANDS WITH A FEW OF THOSE PRESENT. WE THINK THE BEST
TIME FOR THE EVENT WOULD BE EARLY SATURDAY AFTERNOON. THE
PRESIDENT COULD DEPART STATE HOUSE AT 1500, ATTEND THE
EMBASSY DEDICATION FROM 1505 TO 1525, AND DELIVER HIS SPEECH
AT THE NATIONAL THEATER AT 1545 THIS MIGHT DELAY THE
PRESIDENT'S RETURN TO STATE HOUSE UNTIL 1700, BUT THIS
SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM IF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS RECEPTION
IS SCRUBBED FOR THAT AFTERNOON (SEE PARA 5).

3. POLICY SPEECH. FMG BELIEVES SPEECH SHOULD BE GIVEN
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LAGOS 02579 01 OF 02 020852Z

UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTER-
NATIONAL AFFAIRS (NITA) BUT, GIVEN THE LIMITED
ACCOMMODATIONS IN THE NITA AUDITORIUM (300 SEATS), PROPOSES
THAT IT BE HELD IN EITHER THE AUDITORIUM (5,000 CAPACITY)
OR THE CONFERENCE HALL (2,000 CAPACITY) AT THE
NATIONAL ARTS THEATER. THEY ALSO BELIEVE THIS WOULD BE
BETTER FROM A SECURITY POINT-OF-VIEW. THEY PROPOSE TO

ISSUE INVITATIONS TO SOME 2,000 OR 2,500 PERSONS FROM 'ALL WALKS OF LIFE.' E.G., MEMBERS OF DIPLOMATIC CORPS, MEMBERS OF CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY, UNIVERSITY PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS, FEDERAL AND LAGOS STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS, BUSINESS AND PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS, AND U.S. CITIZENS. THEY WOULD EXPECT THE EMBASSY TO PROVIDE THE LIST OF AMERICANS TO BE INVITED. THE MEA PLANNING COMMITTEE REQUESTS CONFIRMATION OF THE TIME AND PLACE OF THE POLICY SPEECH ASAP AS THEY MUST ISSUE INVITATIONS BY MARCH 15.

4. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT THE NATIONAL ARTS THEATER WOULD BE A FAR BETTER SITE THAN THE NITA AUDITORIUM (REFTEL B). NITA, FOUNDED IN 1963, IS A NON-PROFIT, INDEPENDENT ORGANIZATION UNDER THE LEGAL CONTROL OF THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT. IT IS LOCATED IN A LOW CLUSTER OF MODERN BUILDINGS ON VICTORIA ISLAND AND IS LESS THAN TEN MINUTES TRAVEL FROM BOTH THE NEW EMBASSY SITE AND THE STATE HOUSE MARINA IN NORMAL TRAFFIC. NITA HAS TWO CONFERENCE HALLS. THE LARGER HALL, THE LECTURE THEATER, WAS CONSTRUCTED IN 10YT-66, IS A GIFT OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE, AND HAS NO SPECIAL PRESS FACILITIES. IT SEATS EOP PEOPLE IN A THEATER FORMAT WITH A RAISED STATE AT THE END APPROXIMATELY 24 FEET LONG, 10 FEET DEEP. THE SMALL HALL IS A CIRCULAR CHAMBER GIVEN BY THE WEST BERLIN SENATE WHICH SEATS ABOUT 70 PEOPLE, AND IS OFTEN USED FOR PRESS CONFERENCES. A PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH WOULD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 LAGOS 02579 01 OF 02 020852Z

TAKE PLACE IN THE LARGER HALL. AIR CONDITIONING IS ERRATIC. THE REMAINING BUILDINGS OF NITA, INCLUDING RESEARCH FACILITIES, OFFICES AND LIBRARY, WERE CONSTRUCTED IN 1965-67 BY THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT. NITA MEMBERSHIP INCLUDES ACADEMICS, STUDENTS, RESEARCHERS, AND PUBLIC FIGURES FROM THROUGHOUT NIGERIA. THE AUDIENCE FOR A PRESIDENTIAL SPEECH, NO MATTER WHERE IT IS HELD, WOULD INCLUDE A CROSS SECTION OF THE NITA MEMBERSHIP, DEPENDING UPON HOW MANY SEATS WOULD BE AVAILABLE AFTER ACCOMMODATING THE PRESS.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 01 LAGOS 02579 02 OF 02 020857Z

ACTION SS-15

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INFO AMCONSUL KADUNA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 LAGOS 2579

5. RECEPTION FOR DIPLOMATIC CORPS. IF IT IS STILL DESIRED THAT THE PRESIDENT HAVE FREE TIME FROM 5 P.M. UNTIL THE START OF DINNER, WE CAN GO BACK TO THE MEA COMMITTEE AND REPORT THAT WE CANNOT AGREE TO A 5:30 TIMING FOR A RECEPTION OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS. WE COULD SUGGEST INSTEAD THAT RECEPTION OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS BE INTEGRATED INTO THE HOUR-LTGO ARRIVAL CEREMONY AT DODAN BARRACKS AT 10.:00 A.M. CHIEF OF PROTOCOL BALEWA HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED THAT SUCH A PROCEDURE WOULD BE GIVEN CONSIDERATION (PARA 2 OF LAGOS 2324.)

6. STATE BANQUET. THE STATE BANQUET WAS PLACED ON THE SCHEDULE FOR THE NIGHT OF SATURDAY, APRIL 1, IN RESPONSE TO OUR PLEA THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD PROBABLY BE TIRED AFTER HIS TRIP TO KANO. THE PLANNING COMMITTEE POINTED OUT, HOWEVER, THAT THE NIGERIAN CUSTOM IS TO HAVE THE BANQUET THE NIGHT BEFORE THE HEAD OF STATE'S DEPARTURE AND THAT THIS ALTERNATIVE IS STILL OPEN.

7. DURBAR IN KANO. FOLLOWING MAY BE USEFUL TO DEPARTMENT/ WHITE HOUSE IN CLARIFYING WHAT A DURBAR IS. ANY IMPORTANT CEREMONIAL CALL ON THE EMIR REQUIRES A DURBAR. THE WORD ITSELF MEANS 'MOUNTING OF THE HORSES.' IN ITS 'STATIC' AND SIMPLEST FORM IT CONSISTS OF A SMALL CONTINGENT OF MOUNTED HORSEMEN IN TRADITIONAL GARB PROTECTING AND

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 LAGOS 02579 02 OF 02 020857Z

HONORING THE VISITOR'S ENCOUNTER WITH THE EMIR. ELABORATIONS ON THIS THEN INVOLVE ADDING ADDITIONAL ELEMENTS, WHICH MAY CONSIST OF MORE HORSES AND HORSEMEN, CAMELS, DANCERS, ACROBATS, MUSICIANS, CLOWNS, FOOTMEN, ETC. THE HIGHER RANKING THE GUEST, OR THE MORE AUSPICIOUS THE OCCASION, THE MORE ELABORATE THE DURBAR. ONE OF THE LARGEST DURBARS IN NIGERIAN HISTORY WAS RECENTLY ORGANIZED IN KADUNA IN HONOR OF THE HEADS OF STATE AND OTHER RANKING VISITORS TO THE BLACK ARTS FESTIVAL (FESTAC) A YEAR AGO. SEVERAL THOUSAND HORSES AND HUNDREDS

OF CAMELS FROM ACORSS NORTHERN NIGERIA TOOK SOME FIVE HOURS TO PARADE PAST THE REVIEWING STAND. A MINI-DURBAR OF THE TYPE ENVISAGED FOR PRESIDENT CARTER WOULD TAKE PLACE IN CONNECTION WITH HIS CALL ON THE EMIR BEFORE LUNCH. CONTINGENTS OF HORSEMEN, DANCERS, FOOTMEN, ETC. FROM EMIRATES INFERIOR TO KANO WOULD PARADE PAST THE EMIR AND THE PRESIDENT, WITH THE PARADE TERMINATING WITH CHARGES THAT CONTINGENTS OF HORSEMEN WOULD MAKE, ONE AFTER THE OTHER, ON THE EMIR'S POSITION FROM 500 TO 600 YARDS DISTANCE, REIGNING IN THE HORSES AS CLOSE TO THE EMIR AS POSSIBLE. DURBARS REQUIRE AMPLE ADVANCE NOTICE TO FACILITATE PREPARATION OF COSTUMES FOR HORSE AND RIDER, SELECTION OF PARTICIPANTS, AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR FEEDING THE HORSES. IN VIEW OF THE AUTOMATIC NATURE OF THE DURBAR CEREMONY, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE FMG HAS ALREADY GIVEN INSTRUCTIONS FOR SUCH PREPARATIONS TO BE INITIATED. UNTIL MEA OFFICIALS HAVE TALKED DIRECTLY WITH TRADITIONAL LEADERS AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN KANO, HOWEVER, WE WILL NOT BE IN A POSITION TO INFORM YOU HOW ELABORATE THIS PARTICULAR DURBAR WILL BE. WE NOTE THAT THE DURATION OF THE DURBAR AS LISTED IN THE FMG'S PROPOSED SCHEDULE (REFTEL A) FITS THE DEPARTMENT'S SUGGESTED TIMING OF ONE HOUR TO NINETY MINUTES.

I. KADAWA IRRIGATION SCHEME. AMBASSADOR SANU EMPHASIZED THIS MORNING THAT THE HEAD OF STATE ATTACHES HIGHEST IMPORTANCE TO A
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PAGE 03 LAGOS 02579 02 OF 02 020857Z

VISIT TO THE KADAWA IRRIGATION SCHEME. FIRST, IT REPRESENTS THE NIGERIANS' OWN EFFORTS TO ATTACK THE SAEIAN DESETTIFICATION PROBLEM IN THE CONTEST OF FOOD PRODUCTION, ONE OF NIGERIA'S MOST PRESSING NEEDS. SECOND, IT IS NECESSARY FOR THE FMG TO BALANCE EVENTS THAT RELATE TO THE TRADITIONAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE (EMIR) WITH THOSE THAT RELATE TO THE MODERN GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE (GOVERNOR). THE FORMER IS SATISFIED BY ATTENDING A LUNCH HOSTED BY THE GOVERNOR AND VISITING THE KADAWA PROJECT, WHICH IS UNDER HIS AEGIS. ACCORDING TO THE PLANNIN COMMITTEE, THERE IS NO OTHER POSSIBLE EVENT THAT COULD REPLACE IT. THEY HAVE DISMISSED THEIR EARLIER PROPOSAL OF VISITING BAYERO UNIVERSITY BECAUSE THEY HAVE SINCE LEARNED IT WILL BE IN RECESS. (EMBASSY COMMENT: WE URGE THAT KADAWA BE INCLUDED. ITS OMISSION WOULD HAVE SERIOUS POLITICAL REPERCUSSIONS.)

9. KANO LOGISTICS. THE PRESIDENT WILL MOST LIKELY BE ACCOMPANIED TO KANO BY COMMISSIONER GARBA. IT IS NOT THE PRACTICE FOR THE HEAD OF STATE TO ACCOMPANY VISITING HEADS OF STATE OUTSIDE LAGOS. THE PLANNING COMMITTEE ENVISAGES A CARGO PLANE TAKING A SECOND PRESIDENTIAL CAR TO KANO ON APRIL 1 TO BE READY FOR HIS ARRIVAL. THEY WOULD MAKE A C-130 AVAILABLE FOR THIS PURPOSE. THEY PROPOSE THAT THE PRESIDENT AND A SELECTED GROUP OF U.S. AND NIGERIAN OFFICIALS MAKE THE TRIP TO THE KADAWA SCHEME BY HELICOPTER IN BOTH DIRECTIONS, WITH THE REST OF THE ENTOURAGE PROCEEDING BY AUTOMOBILE. THE PLANNING COMMITTEE ESTIMATES THAT THE FLIGHT WOULD TAKE FROM

10 TO 15 MINUTES IN EACH DIRECTION, INCLUDING AN AERIAL SURVEY OF THE PROJECT. BY ROAD THE TRIP WOULD TAKE ABOUT 30 MINUTES EACH WAY.

10. PRESS CONFERENCE. WE ARE STILL VERY MUCH INTERESTED IN ASCERTAINING WASHINGTON'S VIEWS REGARDING THE DESIRABILITY AND TIMING OF A PRESS CONFERENCE (PARA 6 OF LAGOS 2324).

11. DEPARTURE FROM NIGERIA. THE NIGERIANS CUSTOMARILY HAVE THE TWO HEADS OF STATE SIGN A JOINT COMMUNIQUE AT THE END OF THE VISIT. THEY SUGGEST THAT THE PRESIDENT DEPART 15 MINUTES EARLIER ON THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 LAGOS 02579 02 OF 02 020857Z

MORNING OF APRIL 3 TO ALLOW FOR A SHORT STOP AT DODAN BARRACKS TO SIGN THE COMMUNIQUE.

12. ACTION REQUESTED: WHILE THE MEA PLANNING COMMITTEE REALIZES THAT DECISIONS ON MANY ASPECTS OF ITS PROPOSAL MAY HAVE TO AWAIT THE ARRIVAL OF THE PRE-ADVANCE TEAM, IT HOPES FOR WHITE HOUSE REACTIONS TO MANY ASPECTS OF ITS PROPOSAL EARLIER THAN THAT. IT EMPHASIZED ITS DESIRE FOR PARTICULARLY RAPID RESPONSES TO TWO ASPECTS OF THE SCHEDULE; (A) CONFIRMATION THAT THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH MAY BE GIVEN UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE NITA (PARA 3 ABOVE); AND (B) AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO THE KAWADA IRRIGATION PROJECT VISIT, SO THAT ALL THE NECESSARY LOGISTICAL PREPARATIONS CAN BE INITIATED. EASUM

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